

**The Words**  
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by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

**John 1:1-14**

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Bible teaches that we, Lighthouse Baptist Church, are to place Jesus at the very pinnacle of our worship and of our praise. His will is to be the reason we exist and His commission is to be the activity to which our lives are dedicated.

We read this, our priority in many scriptures: take **Colossians 1:10-18** for example:

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom [Jesus, the Son] we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and

invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Back in Jerusalem and up in Galilee when the Apostles and the disciples of the Lord traveled through Israel together, they had Jesus with them. He was there; literally, bodily; they could reach out and touch Him; they heard Him speak many times every day.

The Apostle John tells us of their experience with the literal presence of Jesus.

**1John 1:1-3**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, ...

Jesus also promised that He would be with us. He told His Church or Churches that He would be with us always; even to the end of the world.

Just before He ascended He said in:

**Matthew 28:18-20**

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Since Jesus is not literally and bodily here anymore, just how is it that He is with us?

God inhabits the praises of His people; we experience the presence of His Spirit every week as we meet together in His Name.

His Spirit goes forth touching and speaking to our hearts as His Word is preached.

Yet, I believe the most primary way in which Jesus is with us is because we have the Word...and He IS the Word!

There is something even more basic and primary than that we have His Word. It is something that only takes place in a Church.

Virtually all those who claim the name of Jesus agree on the Word. "The Bible is the Word of God" we can all say in unison...and oh, how necessary that is!

But what is never agreed on (except in a Church where Jesus is truly the head) are **the words**.

Oh, we all shout “I believe the Word” but we don’t agree on the words.

We are commanded, **2Timothy 2:15** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Study what? Study The Word, of course. To study The Word, you must study the words.

Lots of men write lots of commentary on The Word; but there is only one commentary you can count on.

### **Isaiah 28:9-10**

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.*

10 For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little:

The only commentary on the Word of God you can trust is what it says other places in the Word of God.

**I. So, just how important is it that we correctly understand and agree on the words?**

*A. What do the words say about The Words?*

1. **Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my **words** shall not pass away.

2. We are told this five times in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

3. It is the Words that get people saved.  
**Acts 11:14** Who shall tell thee **words**, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

**John 6:68** Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

4. That our words agree with God's Words is a must! **Matthew 12:36-37**

**36** But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

**37** For by thy **words** thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

5. It is our attention to the Words that demonstrates our love for the Lord.

**John 14:23** Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

6. **John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the **words** that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

*B. If you want the truth, you must study the Words.*

1. What do most Christians do today when they want to start studying the Bible?
  2. They get themselves a study Bible; one with lots of footnotes.
  3. Problem is, the footnotes don't agree. Every different study Bible has different footnotes.
  4. Or they get online and begin to read different commentaries. Again, the commentaries don't agree.
  5. Or, they get themselves several different translations of the Bible. These not only don't agree; depending on which ones; many parts have been left out or simply changed.
  6. Or if they are really serious, they go to a Bible college. Again, depending on which college one attends, the teachings vary widely.
  7. So those who read many Study Bibles, spend a lot of time online and go to Bible college are usually the best educated? No, they are often the ones who are the most thoroughly confused.
7. If you really want to know the truth;
- a. Get you a King James Version Bible; the fewer footnotes, the better.
  - b. Whether online or on paper; get you a good Greek/Hebrew dictionary.

c. Read every day and study the Words.

## II. You will find that the Words are consistent.

*A. The Bible is complex; it is beyond anyone's ability to understand it all perfectly; anyone but Jesus, that is.*

1. Yet, rightly divided, what you do understand can be well understood.
2. It is the consistency of the Words God uses to make up His Word that become the primary key to its understanding.

*B. There are so many examples of this.*

1. **John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

2. Everlasting always means "lasting forever."

3. **John 10:27-28**

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

4. Eternal always means "eternal."



5. It does not mean “until you sin again” or “unless you fall” or “unless God changes His mind”; it means everlasting...and it never means something else.

6. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

7. Whosoever always means anyone; whosoever!

8. It does not mean “whosoever, if you happen to be one of God’s elect.” It means whosoever and it always means whosoever!

### **III. The Words are always the key to the truth.**

*A. If you want to understand the doctrine of soteriology; the Words are the key.*

1. Salvation always means to deliver or to rescue.

2. Who is being saved and from what may vary greatly in a particular context, but salvation or to save always means the same thing.

3. The means of obtaining eternal salvation from sin is Greek “believe”.

4. pisteuō always means the same thing!  
*pist-yoo'-o*

From [G4102](#); to *have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, *credit*, by implication to *entrust* (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ): - believe (-r), commit (to trust), **put in trust with**.

*B. If you want to understand the doctrine of the Church; the Words are the key.*

1. Church; the Greek "ecclesia" doesn't mean one thing in one place and something else in another place.
2. The application may be generic thus applying to many or all of them or it may be individual and specific to a particular one.
3. But what a Church is, is always what a Church is.

*C. If you want to understand the doctrine of the Holy Spirit; the Words are the key.*

1. There are lots of spirits but only one Holy Spirit. There are no capital letters in Greek, thus it is words of the context that will tell you if the Word is speaking of the Holy Spirit.
2. There are key Words that describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
3. Received, filled and baptized are the three primary key Words to understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

4. These words always mean what they mean; they each mean something very different and their definitions do not change from one passage to the other.

#### **IV. Complex doctrines become easily understood because of the particular Words that are used.**

*A. The heresy of Calvinism and the truth of that issue can be clearly understood by one key Word.*

##### **1. Romans 8:28-31**

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

29 For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

2. The idea that God chose some to be saved and others to go to hell is preposterous and flies in the face of everything that “whosoever” means and the dozens of verses that state it.

3. God did do some choosing and we Believers are truly His Chosen.

4. What He did choose was according to his (key Word) *foreknowledge*.

5. God foreknew who would choose to trust Jesus and who would not and what He did choose for us and them is based on that foreknowledge.

6. What He did not choose is who would go to hell and who would not!

*B. There are Words key to the understanding of every major doctrine in the Bible.*

1. We each will give account to God according to what we do with His Words.

2. It is not enough to know them. **We are to do them.**

**Conclusion: Jesus has never had, nor ever will have the preeminence amongst the multitudes who claim to be Christians.**

**That He is not their Head is evident because they simply do not follow Him. It is simply a matter of anatomy; the body always follows the head.**

**Only in a real Church with real commitment to Jesus' preeminence does His headship truly exist.**

**I am often criticized for preaching too much about the Church.**

**Why don't I preach more about how to have a good marriage? I am. Everything you need to know about how to have a great marriage can best be learned by observing the relationship between Christ and His Church.**

**Ephesians 5:24-25**

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

**Ephesians 5:32** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**That brings us back to the Words...Is that the World Wide Universal Church –or – is that the local Church, like Lighthouse?**

**Church only means one thing...which one do you think it is?**

**Why don't I preach more about how to overcome addiction and life-destroying sin and bad choices?**

**I am. When you worship and serve God as a part of one of the Lord's real Churches, that**

life of service will replace all that other garbage.

Why don't I preach more about finances? Oh, never mind that one; nobody ever said I preached too little about money.

We are designed to get saved; get scripturally baptized in water; thus becoming a part of our Church... and then worship and serve God with all the heart and energy and commitment we can muster.

When we do that; (and you will likely find yourself in the minority when you do) you will find that Jesus will change every aspect of your life for the better.

Fulfillment is what you will find.

**Ephesians 1:22-23**

22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

May I suggest to you this morning that you quit listening to and reading every Tom, Dick and Harry who thinks he's an expert on the Bible and go study the Words!